

**REMARKS**

In the Office Action, the Examiner has restricted the claims of the application as follows:

I. Claims 1-34, directed to a magnetic recording medium having anti-parallel coupling of adjacent magnetic layers; and

II. Claims 35-41, directed to a recording medium having soft magnetic layers with different saturation magnetizations.

The Examiner states that the inventions of Groups I and II are independent and distinct and that none of the claims are generic.

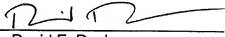
Applicants hereby elect to prosecute the claims of Group I, namely Claims 1-34. However, Applicants reserve the right to pursue Claims 35-41 in one or more subsequent divisional and/or continuation applications.

Further, Applicants respectfully traverse this Restriction Requirement. If the search and examination of all the claims in an application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine them on the merits, even though they include claims to independent or distinct inventions (MPEP 803). In the present application, the claims of Group I include claims directed to varying underlayer thickness (e.g., Claim 6), varying underlayer magnetic coercivity (e.g., Claim 7) and varying underlayer magnetic permeability (e.g., Claim 8). The claims are also directed to soft magnetic underlayers of varying composition (e.g., Claim 10). Thus, a variety of underlayer magnetic properties is included within the scope of Claims 1-34. Therefore, it is submitted that including the invention of Claims 35-41 (which recite the saturation magnetization of the underlayers) would not impose a serious burden upon the patent office. Therefore, removal of this Restriction Requirement is requested.

It is not believed that any fees are owed with respect to this response; however, any such additional fees can be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1419.

Respectfully submitted,

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